



Editor's note: National Audubon's "Membership Growth Strategy Home Page" has a collection of their excuses for changing the dues share and the various plans that were put forward (two of which were even worse than the one approved in September). The page also has a "Chapter Dues Worksheet" that will give you NAS's projections of how many thousands of dollars they're planning on denying each chapter; just enter "R15" as the chapter code (line 1 of the worksheet) and you'll see SSAS's funding shrinking year after year. Visit [www.audubon.org/local/cn/membership/growthstrategy.html](http://www.audubon.org/local/cn/membership/growthstrategy.html). Yes, that does say "growth strategy"; NAS considers this to be part of a plan to more than quadruple its membership by 2020. But the more NAS-generated members, the more impossible it will be for chapters to cover newsletter expenses.

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### ONE MORE BIRDSEED SALE REMINDER

SSAS's annual birdseed sale will take place on **Sunday, October 29**, starting at 9:30 A.M. Eastern Standard Time in Tackapausha Museum's parking lot. Tackapausha is on Washington Avenue in Seaford, south of Sunrise Highway and just north of Merrick Road; from Sunrise Highway, Washington Avenue is three traffic lights east of the Seaford-Oyster Bay Expressway.



Preorders were strongly encouraged, but there will be some extra seed available (first come, first serve) and help is greatly appreciated anytime up to 2:30 P.M. in our all-volunteer sale. We will be selling black oil and striped sunflower, mixed seeds, cracked corn, sunflower chips (no shells), peanut hearts, safflower, niger (thistle), and suet cakes. For more details, call Michael Sperling at 541-0805 (evenings); for info on any post-sale leftovers, call birdseed sale chairperson Paul Butkerei at 599-0395.

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### BROOKSIDE PRESERVE CLEANUP TIME!

SSAS's annual Brookside Preserve fall cleanup will take place on **Sunday, November 12**, starting at 1 P.M. Brookside is a 20 acre freshwater wetland, woodland, and upland area owned by Nassau County and managed (and rescued from oblivion) by SSAS. With help from a state grant, we published a trail guide and an educational freshwater wetland guide. We continue to protect the Preserve and improve its wildlife habitat.

Brookside Preserve is located on the Freeport-Baldwin border, along Milburn Creek; park at the main entrance on Brookside Avenue just north of Sunrise Highway (turn north at the traffic light that's just east of Freeport High School). Bring gloves, rakes, bags, and/or friends of all ages.

**Committee Meeting.** The Brookside Preserve Committee will probably be meeting on **Thursday, November 2** at 7:30 P.M. in Merrick. For details, call chairperson Betsy Gulotta at 546-8841.

### BECOME A MEMBER OF SSAS Think Globally, but Join Locally!

As you've read in this issue's President's Message, you can greatly help SSAS survive by joining Audubon through us for the same price that it costs if you join through NAS. And from now until the end of 2000, NAS has doubled our dues share for new members we recruit — we'll get \$30 if you join through us, \$5.50 if you join through them.

If you'd like to become a member of National Audubon and your all-volunteer local chapter (that's us), please mail the following form and your check payable to "National Audubon Society" to South Shore Audubon Society, P.O. Box 31, Freeport, NY 11520-0031. The special rate for the first year is \$20 per household; \$15 for students and seniors.

✂\*\*\*\*\*

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

*Chapter Code R15 7CAP1 (South Shore Audubon Society)*

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*Explore the coast  
with the*

## AMERICAN LITTORAL SOCIETY

**NEW YORK AQUARIUM** (Nov. 4). Join us for a 2-1/2 hour "Behind-the-Scenes" tour of this wonderful aquarium in Coney Island. See beluga whales, walrus, penguins, sea otters, sharks, local & tropical fish, and, of course, Squirt the Wonder Clam. Visit "Discovery Cove" and "Sea Cliffs" exhibits. Cost: \$15 (kids \$10).

**ASSATEAGUE FALL WEEKEND** (Nov. 8-12). Visit Chincoteague Refuge and see wild ponies, Bald Eagle, Sika deer, Tundra Swan, Snow Geese, gannets, etc. Cost: \$275 covers 3 nights at Refuge Motor Inn, guides, Saturday seafood dinner, marsh boat tour, Safari back dune tour, evening slide program & star watch.

**HOLIDAY PARTY** (Sat., Dec. 9, 5-10 P.M.). At Fort Tilden, Breezy Point. Cost: \$35 gets you all food & drink, door prizes, an "Ugly Auction," and a performance by the Don Diego Flamenco Dance Company. Meet at 3 P.M. for a hike.

**COSTA RICA** (January 17-29, 2001). Visit Monteverde Cloud Forest, Carara Coastal Rain Forest, Santa Rosa National Park, Ocotral Beach Resort, and Tabacon Hot Springs & Spa (Arenal Volcano). See Scarlet Macaw, toucans, trogons, monkeys, sloths, and crocodiles. Call for more info.

For information and free field trip brochure,  
call/write Don Riepe, (718) 634-6467,  
28 West 9th Road, Broad Channel, NY 11693

## VOTE FOR TOBAY'S BOND ISSUE

South Shore Audubon's Board of Directors recommends that our Tobay members support the "Save Environmental Assets" Bond Issue that will be on their Election Day ballots. The Town of North Hempstead, too, has an environmental bond issue to be voted on, but that's outside SSAS's territory.

Here are highlights from Tobay's September 7 press release (available at [www.town-of-oyster-bay.org](http://www.town-of-oyster-bay.org)):

"If approved by the voters of the Town of Oyster Bay, an Environmental Bond Fund would be established exclusively for the acquisition, preservation, and protection of environmentally sensitive land, as well as the enhancement of park and recreational facilities... The Environmental Bond Fund would be split into two categories, \$20 million for the acquisition of environmentally sensitive lands and \$10 million for improvements to park and recreational facilities. Repayment of the Environmental Bond is expected to cost the average home assessed at \$7,500 approximately \$19.44 per year or less than \$1.70 per month per household during the life of the bond."

### NAS DUMPS CHAPTER WEB SITES

*Michael Spelling*

In 1996, the National Audubon Society invited its chapters to set up web pages for free at [www.audubon.org](http://www.audubon.org). This past summer, NAS sent chapter webmasters the following eviction explanation:

"It is becoming increasingly clear that when a corporation hosts a web site, it is responsible for what is put on that web site, and it is potentially liable for damages that might result. There could be liability, for example, for any material that is factually inaccurate, libelous, or that violates a copyright or other ownership of materials or images. While a chapter may have posted the material, National Audubon would likely be the target of any claim for damages because of our deeper pockets.

"The need to limit potentially serious legal liability was the main factor in this decision. Before making this difficult decision, we looked at all the options, including using disclaimers regarding the content of the chapter web sites hosted by Audubon. Our lawyers concluded that such disclaimers would not in fact protect us from liability, nor would any other options we considered."

Given that NAS is hardly the only organization that gives its chapters web space, and given that courts have ruled that, for example, America Online isn't responsible for the content its subscribers put on their web pages, several chapter webmasters suggested that NAS get new lawyers. But NAS's Board of Directors has sealed our web

site's fate. After Halloween, NAS says they will maintain links from the old chapter web addresses to wherever they end up. We'll be at [redrival.com](http://redrival.com).

If liability was the "main factor," you may be wondering what the other factors were. Well, fortunately, NAS president John Flicker's memo to the Board of Directors requesting that they dump the chapter web pages was unintentionally distributed to chapter webmasters. Flicker mentioned a threatened lawsuit from a rat poison manufacturer (who objected to a chapter's web site) and that some chapters have illegally posted copyrighted material. But Flicker also wrote about NAS's contractual arrangements (which have always prohibited chapters from promoting or linking to competing products), the cost (even though chapter web sites have been mostly maintained by one volunteer), and branding.

So what's "branding"? Seems to have something to do with how NAS can get the most corporate and foundation money: "Our web site is increasingly becoming the official record of the National Audubon Society. It will become one of our most important vehicles to implement our new branding strategy. Just like *Audubon* magazine, or any other NAS publication, its content needs to be carefully considered and monitored. It will be extremely difficult to manage a web site with a focused brand strategy if we are simultaneously hosting hundreds of other Audubon web sites over which we have no control." Coupled with the dues share slashing, it's apparent that NAS's current management and Board of Directors (3/4 of which the chapters do not nominate) don't think the chapters are worth much.

WEB PAGE [www.audubon.org/chapter/ny/southshore](http://www.audubon.org/chapter/ny/southshore)

### MORE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

*Tom Torma*

If you have Internet skills, such as web-site development, please contact me. If you have any skills, such as arts and crafts, we need your help. My number is 378-4723; leave a message and return phone number, and we will get back to you. It is through the efforts of our volunteer members that our chapter succeeds.

Seed - Feeders  
Houses - Baths  
Books - Gifts

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## THE BROOKIES OF BROOKSIDE

John R. Fischer

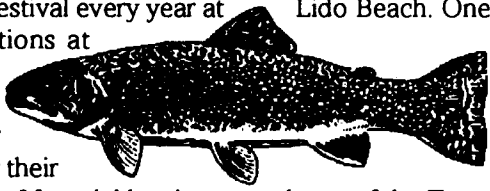
You may have heard the news. If not, let me be the first to tell you: Brook trout, *Salvelinus fontinalis*, have been returned to Milburn Creek in Brookside Preserve. How could this happen? It's a long story, but I'll give you the short version.

Living in proximity of Brookside Preserve allowed me to enjoy its natural setting on a regular basis. The flora and fauna that abides within had inspired me to wonder about the small stream that coursed its way from above Seaman Avenue to the LIRR culvert and that passes under Freeport High School's athletic field and out into Milburn Pond. On many days, I would stop at the old wooden bridge and look for signs of fish in the stream. No signs of fish, but there was insect activity on the water almost year round. Being an avid trout fisherman and a member of the Board of the Long Island Chapter of Trout Unlimited, I found out that one major criterion for restoring and stocking a stream with trout is water temperature.

The NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) needed a survey of the stream showing that the year-round temperature range would be suitable for brook trout. I volunteered and began a year-long temperature study. The results were astonishing; the water temperature of the stream was similar to that of the Carmans River, a Blue Ribbon Trout Stream on the South Shore, in Suffolk's Southaven County Park.

It may have been luck or it may have been fate, for what happened next was not expected. The Town of Hempstead has a family festival every year at Lido Beach. One of the attractions at the festival is an artificial trout pond for the kids to try their luck at fishing. My neighbor is an employee of the Town who asked if Trout Unlimited could help them take better care of the fish at the festival. Trout Unlimited agreed to provide barb-less hooks and teach catch & release techniques to improve the lot of the surviving fish. I asked about what happens to the trout at the end of the festival. I was informed that the trout had to be released into a suitable body of water within the Town of Hempstead. I contacted the DEC and asked if they would approve a permit to stock the trout into Milburn Creek. The Town of Hempstead liked the idea and in September of 1998 the remaining 200 brook trout from the festival were stocked in Milburn Creek within Brookside Preserve.

Some of the trout settled into the pool just before the LIRR culvert and were visible in the next spring during the Preserve cleanup. Again in the fall of 1999, the surviving brook trout from the festival were stocked into Milburn Creek and were able to hold over from fall to spring. The brook trout that were stocked in the stream were a very



large size, in the 10 to 15 inch range. The DEC fisheries biologist advised that the natural size for wild brook trout in Long Island waters is the 5 to 8 inch range. We decided it would be more suitable to stock smaller-sized brook trout in Milburn Creek in the future.

In the winter/spring of 1999-2000, the Long Island Chapter of Trout Unlimited sponsored a *Trout in the Classroom* program. The program was set up at Freeport and Baldwin High Schools. The schools were provided with an aquatic tank that had special cooling and filtering capabilities. This special equipment was funded through a grant from the Norcross Wildlife Foundation.

As part of a conservation learning program, the schools were given a few hundred brook trout eggs donated from the Cold Spring Harbor Fish Hatchery. The eggs hatched into small alevins and developed into small fry. The fry were fed and maintained by the students until last June. They were then released into the stream and have now grown up to 4 to 5 inch size. I checked on them the other day. They're doing just fine. Maybe next year they'll start reproducing on their own. Wouldn't that be nice?

If you look for the young trout, you must approach the stream very slowly and with stealth. The young brook trout are wary and skittish. Try staying in one spot and look into the water using polarized sunglasses. One spot that is easily accessible is located at the northern end near Seaman Avenue. If you cross the stream at Lorenz Avenue and Brookwood Drive on the Baldwin side, walk south about 100 feet and you'll come to a large pool which is a nice location to view the young brookies of Brookside.

This year, the Long Island Chapter of Trout Unlimited is sponsoring six more schools for the *Trout in the Classroom* program. We think it's a wonderful way to instill stewardship in this generation and continue conservation in the future.

*Editor's note:* John Fischer is now President of the Long Island Chapter of Trout Unlimited, which helps SSAS maintain Brookside. He is a member of the Brookside Preserve Committee and was SSAS's co-plaintiff in this year's lawsuit regarding construction planned at the Water Works building on the Preserve's southern border.

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**SSAS Mission Statement** — *The mission of South Shore Audubon Society is to promote environmental education, and preserve and restore our environment, through responsible activism, for the benefit of both people and wildlife.*

**SSAS Post Office Statement** — *South Shore Skimmer is published monthly from September through December and February through May by South Shore Audubon Society, P.O. Box 31, Freeport, NY 11520-0031.*

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## IF THIS IS AN EMERGENCY, PLEASE HOLD...

Editor's note: This is reprinted with permission from the Natural Resources Defense Council and was written by New York City-based writer Marty Lipp. I hope you enjoy it. Copyright 1999 by the editors. First published in *The Amicus Journal* ([www.nrdc.org/amicus](http://www.nrdc.org/amicus)).

Hello. You have reached Lybachen Dye Corporation, the Industrial Solvent, Pigment, and Herbicide Company that cares about the environment. If you would like to hear about our receiving the Solvent Association of America's Lean and Green Award, press 1.

If you would like to hear a recording of Canada geese on the lawn outside our corporate headquarters, press 2.

If you are a member of the media, press 3.

If you would like to report an environmental emergency, press 4.

If you are an employee calling with a complaint about a workplace safety issue, use the keys on your Touch-Tone pad to spell out your name and social security number, and we will reroute your call to your current supervisor.

3 Thank you. Welcome to our press response hotline. Your call is very important to us, but all our press representatives are currently talking to other reporters, most likely about Lybachen Dye Corporation's recent winning of the American Solvent Association's Lean and Green Award.

If you too would like to learn more about the Lean and Green Award, or would like a copy of the Lean and Green Award suitable for framing and/or display, press 1.

If you are calling for an annual report, press 2.

If you would like to learn more about our Canada geese wildlife habitat conservation program, press 3.

If you are seeking information on our toxic emissions, please punch in the formula of the chemical about which you are inquiring, followed by its atomic weight and the year it was first synthesized.

If you are a member of the media inquiring about an environmental discharge and would like to first hear a recording of our employees' children at our last company picnic, press 4.

If you are a member of the media and need further information immediately, press 5 after the children's egg race.

4 Thank you. If the threat you are reporting involves property, press 1.

If the threat you are reporting involves people, press 2.

If the threat you are reporting involves the elimination of one or more zip codes, press 3.

If you believe you yourself are the victim of an environmental discharge from a Lybachen Dye Corporation facility, press 4. If you cannot press any individual keys on your keypad, please shmush whatever you can against the keypad in the vicinity of the higher numbers.

4 If you are calling about a discharge to a local waterway, press 1.

If you are calling about a discharge to the air, press 2.

If you are calling about a fireball of blinding intensity that stretches as far as the eye can see, please hang up and redial one of our other corporate offices.

## SSAS HALLOWEEN PARTY

*Tam Torma*

Children will smile, laugh, and be amazed at this year's annual Halloween Party. The highlight of the party will be a special Magic Show with an environmental theme by Magic Bob McEntee and Jasper the Wonder Cat. There will be audience participation, comedy, musical routines, storytelling, balloon animals, and mind-reading effects. A show that will entertain children and make them more sensitive to the environment at the same time.

Children are invited to attend the party in costume. Other activities include a walk in the woods to pick leaves for leaf printing. Bring a tee shirt to create a specially designed tee. While at the museum, visit the bats and other animals that live there.



The party will be held at Tackapausha Museum and Preserve in Seaford on **Saturday, October 28** from 1 to 3 P.M. (see birdseed article on page 2 for directions). Refreshments will be served. Regular admission to the museum will be charged (\$2 for adults, \$1 for children).

*Volunteers Needed.* We need your help at our annual Halloween Party. We need help leading walks through Tackapausha Preserve, helping kids find leaves to use for leaf printing. We also need help serving refreshments and welcoming people to the party. If you would like to volunteer, please call me at 378-4723. Otherwise, just show up and we will put you to work!

## COVERED DISH DINNER

*Tam Torma*

Join your friends and fellow members of the South Shore Audubon Society at our Covered Dish Dinner at Tackapausha Museum and Preserve.

Get a behind-the-scenes look at how the museum operates.

Admission is the covered dish you bring to the dinner. Please bring your own nonalcoholic refreshment.

The dinner will be held on **Saturday, November 4** at 7 P.M.

To reserve a spot, please call SSAS member Lois Sagrestano in nearby Suffolk County at (631) 969-0073. Leave a message letting Lois know what dish you intend to bring. We are looking forward to seeing you at Tackapausha.





limbs first to create open areas under added layers of branches. Also recycle the Christmas tree by propping or laying it close to a food or water source. Dense thickets of brambles or hollies offer cover from weather and predators.

② *Food from the Garden:* Save yourself time in the flower bed by *not* dead-heading flowers. Birds will feed on the seeds of flower heads such as coneflowers, tall marigolds, zinnias, cosmos, coreopsis, and sunflowers. Leaving the plant material for the winter also provides protection for birds.

③ *Additional Food:* Place various types of feeders and food in your yard. Birds will not only dine on the food you offer, but will also find overwintering garden pests quite tasty. Chickadees love overwintering aphids.

④ *Water:* Place a shallow water dish 2 inches deep near bushes or overhanging branches. A slow dripping noise will help attract birds.

⑤ *Leaf Litter:* Use your mower to mulch leaves in an area where you can leave them. The leaves will attract insects and provide food for foraging birds. Or place the leaves right in the garden to compost so that you will not have to move the decayed "brown gold." You can easily turn in or mulch with the composted leaves right on the spot.



⑥ *Dead Branches:* Save time by not pruning all dead branches. Birds like to perch and view an area before sampling food and water. Besides, it will be easier to see birds next summer if you have a few branches without leaves.

⑦ *Wind:* Use plants or fences to create a south-facing windbreak. The sun's warmth and protection from the wind will attract birds to the shelter.

⑧ *Avoid Systemics:* It's worth repeating. *Don't* use systemic pesticides such as Dimethoate, which can poison birds eating the berries. Instead, try hosing off the plant and then use an insecticidal soap or superior oil.

⑨ *Trees:* Save time by letting a dead tree that does not threaten your home stand in your natuescape. Woodpeckers will be attracted and soon holes will be created for natural birdhouses.

⑩ *Exposed Soil:* Save time by not reseeding bare patches of soil near shrubs. Birds scratch for insects and tiny pebbles for their crops.



NASSAU COUNTY POLLUTION HOTLINE 739-6666



RARE BIRD ALERT (212) 979-3070



AUDUBON MEMBERSHIP STATUS (800) 274-4201



**PLEASE COMPLETE THIS SURVEY**

- 1) What type of articles do you read in the *Skimmer*?  
 Ⓐ About upcoming events  
 Ⓑ Bird walk schedule  
 Ⓒ About environmental issues  
 Ⓓ About bird-watching  
 Ⓔ About wildlife and natural history subjects  
 Ⓕ Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_
  
- 2) How often should we publish the *Skimmer*?  
 Ⓐ Biennially (twice a year)  
 Ⓑ Quarterly (four times a year)  
 Ⓒ Bimonthly (six times a year)  
 Ⓓ Semi-monthly (eight times a year)
  
- 3) What activities are important to you?  
 Ⓐ Bird walks  
 Ⓑ Membership programs  
 Ⓒ Environmental activism  
 Ⓓ Children's activities (parties and festivals)  
 Ⓔ Field trips  
 Ⓕ Maintenance of Brookside Preserve  
 Ⓖ Social events  
 Ⓗ Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_
  
- 4) Do you have access to the Internet? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_
  
- 5) If you have access to the Internet, would you visit a South Shore Audubon Society web site for information? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_
  
- 6) Would you read the *Skimmer* online if it was posted on our web site? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_
  
- 7) Would you use an e-mail list for increased communication among members? (An e-mail list is organized so that if you write one letter, everyone subscribed to the list will receive the letter.)

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

Please return this survey to :  
 South Shore Audubon Society Survey Response  
 P.O. Box 31  
 Freeport, NY 11520-0031

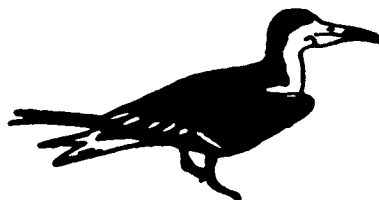
Thank you for taking the time to fill out the above information. We hope this information will allow the South Shore Audubon Society to serve its members better.

## 2000-2001 OFFICERS, DIRECTORS, AND COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Tom Torma, President .....	516-378-4723
Michael Goldsmith, Vice President .....	516-822-5272
Nancy Frame, Treasurer .....	516-520-9016
Christine Schmitt, Recording Secretary .....	516-887-7713
Alice Blaustein, Corresponding Secretary .....	516-221-1870
George Peters, Director (6/03) .....	516-868-5480
Doris Pirodsky, Director (6/03) .....	516-378-1790
Sandy Brenner, Director (6/02) .....	516-249-4919
Scott Oglesby, Director (6/02) .....	516-798-4871
Therese Lucas, Director (6/01) & Environmental Festivals Coordinator .....	516-221-8654
Betty Borowsky, Conservation Education Chairperson .....	516-764-3596
Paul Butkerei, Wild Bird Feed Savings Day .....	516-599-0395
Joan Butkerei, Conservation Legislation Chairperson .....	516-599-0395
Joanne Del Prete, Special Trips Chairperson .....	516-433-0739
Joseph Grupp, Duck Survey .....	516-481-4208
Betsy Gulotta, Brookside Preserve Committee Chairperson .....	516-546-8841
Marge Jaeger, Fund-raising Chairperson .....	516-536-9166
Elliott Kutner, Birding / Field Trips Chairperson .....	516-486-7667
Joseph Lancer, Binocular / Book Sales (7 to 9 P.M.) .....	516-536-6574
Suzanne Lancer, Camp Scholarships Chairperson (7 to 9 P.M.) .....	516-536-6574
Annie F. McIntyre, Educational Media Chairperson .....	516-379-2206
Wendy Murbach, Membership Chairperson .....	516-546-6303
Doreen Remsen, Birdathon Co-Chairperson .....	631-472-6830
James Remsen, Jr., Birdathon Co-Chairperson (pager number) .....	516-517-7538
Dolores Rogers, Welcoming Committee Chairperson .....	516-599-1224
Mary Jane Russell, <i>Armchair Activist</i> Chairperson .....	516-766-7397
Diane Singer, Publicity (5 to 8 P.M.) .....	516-561-6118
Michael Sperling, <i>Skimmer</i> Editor .....	516-541-0805
Jonathan Staller, Hospitality Chairperson .....	516-482-7963

**South Shore Audubon Society**  
**P.O. Box 31**  
**Freeport, NY 11520-0031**

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